

**STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
BRAIN INJURY COMMITTEE
March 6, 2017 – 2:00 PM
Smyrna Rest Area Conference Room, Smyrna**

PRESENT: Brian Hartman, Vice Chair/DLP; Linda Brittingham, Christiana Care; Andrew Burdan, Advocate; Tammy Clifton, DVR/BIAD; Kristin Cosden-Harvey, DDC; Jim Dickinson, DDDS; Debbie Dunlap, Parent/Advocate; Michelle Hood, Saint Francis Life; Jody Hougentogler, Parent/Advocate; Fairuz Lutz, United Health Care; Sharon Lyons, BIAD; Marcey Rezac, People's Place; Ron Sarg, DCVA/MOAA; Jamila Waigwa, DSHAPD; Sybil White, GACEC; John McNeal, Staff; and Jo Singles, Support Staff.

CALL TO ORDER

Brian called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. Everyone introduced themselves.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

- SB 12
- Update on the Moped legislation

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ron made a motion to approve the February 6, 2017 minutes and Tammy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

BUSINESS

MCO/EPIC V

This was deferred when Ann can speak about this.

Brain Injury Trust Fund Update

John stated that there will be about \$50,000 left over from the allocated amount from last year. His goal is to increase awareness and assistance for people with brain injuries. He had to give five percent (5%) and ten percent (10%) budget cut recommendation. He noted that SCPD has a very small budget. His goal is to be proactive and have a waiting list and be in a position to ask for additional funding by next year. He is looking for ways to inform the public of this resource. Most referrals come from the Brain Injury Association of Delaware (BIAD). Sharon spoke about her outreach efforts, including having the applications available at the BIAD Conference in March. Brian noted that this funding covers TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) and ABI (Acquired Brain Injury). John has staff reaching out to rehab facilities and getting the word out via newsletters, etc. He stated that he has changed some of the language on the application to make it less intimidating to applicants. He will share these changes with the Advisory Committee. Linda asked if there has been outreach to nursing homes, especially for people with severe strokes. Sharon commented that she has listserves for nursing homes and frequently sends them information. John stated that home modifications are a frequent request. Linda suggested reaching out to social workers directly. Jamila suggested working with DMMA because they get inundated with TBI referrals and get

turned away. Brian stated that we had looked at other states that had dedicated trust funds and had drafted enabling legislation to set this up in Delaware so that it would be in the Code and have dedicated funding. He added that the Legislature decided on funding a pilot. If we can show need and have good cases where we kept people out of institutions, the hope to get this funding codified. Debbie commented that we need to demonstrate need so that it becomes codified. Brian stated that the funding has been used for summer camp, specialized camp, day programs, assistive technology, communication device, hospital beds, etc. Debbie spoke about therapeutic riding, which is not covered by insurance, which is very beneficial for balance issues. She also mentioned paying for personal trainers at the Y for people with brain injuries who have balance issues. There was some discussion about having an article in the newspaper, but the need to maintain a balance between the number of applicants and available funding. John spoke about using the funds to keep people out of institutions. Jim recommended having a Facebook blast ad, which can be done at very low cost, and Kristen commented that DDC has done this successfully. John commented that he wants the form online so that people can fill an application electronically and have it sent directly via email to a staff person. Ron asked if institutions/businesses could apply for funding; Brian stated that the Brain Injury Trust Fund was intended for individuals to apply if other forms of insurance are exhausted. John thanked everyone for their input.

Domestic Violence & Brain Injuries Discussion

Marcey provided a recap of her last visit with the Committee and that they are seeing many people involved in domestic violence situations that result in having brain injuries and this has not been addressed. She stated that many victims of domestic violence do not receive any medical care and this is also a national problem. Although they have been trauma responsive, they are still missing giving people accurate medical care and benefits. She noted that many domestic violence victims live in poverty. People's Place is working on a pathway to address this. They have had communication with Child, Inc. and the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The next step is to contact Division of Public Health; she asked for contact resources there. She said that they also hope to apply for some larger grants. Brian commented that VCAP can provide assistance and Marcey stated that they frequently access them. Brian asked Marcey to keep the Committee informed and offered letters of support if needed.

BIC Makeup

There was some discussion about the required membership on the Committee (by statute). This will be deferred until Jane can attend since she initiated the discussion. Jim checked online during the meeting and reviewed the list of BIC membership listed in the legislation as follows:

- Director of the Division of Public Health;
- Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services;
- Director of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health;
- Director of the Division of Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities;
- Director of the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services;
- Director of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation;
- Exceptional Children's Director of Department of Education;
- Chair of Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens;
- Chair of Developmental Disabilities Council;

- Minimum of three survivors of brain injury or family members of such individuals; and (xi) representatives of prevention, planning, veterans and service delivery organizations appointed by the Council, including a representative of the State chapter of the Brain Injury Association of America and a representative of the "protection and advocacy agency" as defined in Title 16.

John stated that this is being reviewed by staff and he will have a list sent out to everyone prior to the next meeting.

BIAD Report

Sharon spoke about the upcoming Brain Injury Conference on March 23. The theme is about "Once All the Formal Supports are Gone, What Do We Do with the Rest of our Life" and focuses on the perspective of the professional, caregiver and survivor. Registrations have been slow so far, but should increase as we approach the date. Scholarships are available for survivors and caregivers. Exhibitors and sponsorship have also been down this year. Sharon also spoke about now having funding available to fill the Executive Director position, which has been vacant for two years. There is a part-time administrative assistant who works ½ day a week. Once these positions are filled, they hope to get some interns who can work on grant research and writing.

Other Business

SB 12 Motorcycle Lighting Equipment)

Brian distributed a copy of his comments on SB 12. He reviewed his analysis and noted that this bill has passed the Senate.

Update on the Moped legislation

Brian spoke about raising the age requirement to wear a helmet similar to the age requirement for people riding bicycles, motorized scooters, and all-terrain vehicles. He has contacted A.I. duPont to see if they are interested in partnering with us on this legislation. He received word that it is being reviewed by their policy staff and they will get back with us.

Brian stated that the motorcycle helmet bill (HB 14) will be before the Safety & Homeland Security Committee next Wednesday, March 15 at 2 pm. The SCPD letter of endorsement has been sent to legislators. John plans to testify on his own behalf. Jo will let Committee members know in case they want to testify or write letters in support of the legislation. Brian noted the SCPD letters regarding legislation and regulations are also posted on the SCPD website. Ron asked if there was any comparative data showing an increase in medical costs when the feds dropped the requirement to wear a helmet. Brian commented that since there are many variations of helmet use requirements among states, it would be difficult to track on a national level, but individual states have shown an increased incidence of deaths. Ron asked if there was a type of helmet recommended by safety organizations. Brian commented that he will do more research on what states are doing in requiring a specific type of helmet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jo Singles

SCPD Administrative Specialist

S: bic/mar17min